

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing a board, the method comprising:

- providing upper and lower sheets of material;
- inserting the upper and lower sheets of material into an interior of a first mold cavity;
- forming the upper and lower sheets of material to the interior of the first mold cavity to form a shell;
- filling the shell with an expandable material; and
- preventing the shell from substantially deforming during filling with the expandable material by inserting the shell into a second mold cavity different from the first mold cavity.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of inserting the upper and lower into an interior of a mold cavity includes:

- positioning the upper sheet of material above the lower sheet of material; and
- clamping a perimeter of the upper sheet of material and a perimeter of the lower sheet of material.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 2, including the step of providing a gasket between the perimeter of the upper sheet and the perimeter of the lower sheet.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 2, including the step of spacing at least a portion of the upper and lower sheets of material apart.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 4, including the step of blowing fluid between the upper and lower sheets of material for spacing at least a portion of the upper and lower sheets of material apart.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 5, wherein the step of blowing fluid between the upper and lower sheets of material for spacing at least a portion of the upper and lower sheets of material apart includes passing a fluid inlet tube through the gasket.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of forming the upper and lower sheets of material to the interior of the mold cavity to form a shell includes:

heating the upper and lower sheets of material; and
forcing the upper and lower sheets of material against interior walls of the mold cavity.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method of manufacturing a ~~surfboard~~ board in accordance with claim 7, wherein the step of forcing the upper and lower sheets of material against interior walls of the mold cavity includes at least one of drawing the upper and lower sheets of material against the interior walls with a vacuum and forcing the upper and lower sheets of material against the interior walls with a pressure force between the sheets.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, including the step of trimming excess portions of the first and second sheets of material after forming the shell.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of filling the shell with the expandable material comprises the steps of:
forming an aperture in the shell;
inserting a filling device through the aperture; and

passing the expandable material through the filling device and into the shell.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 10, wherein the expandable material is at least one of polyurethane and polystyrene.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 11, including the step of withdrawing the filling device from within the shell while the shell is being filled with the expandable material.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 10, wherein the step of preventing the shell from substantially deforming during filling with the expandable material comprises the step of placing the shell in a mold cavity having an internal dimension substantially similar to an external dimension of the shell.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 13, including the step of heating the mold cavity to allow the expandable material to at least partially bond to the shell.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, including the step of applying graphics to at least one of first and second sheets of material prior to the step of inserting the upper and lower sheets of material into an interior of a mold cavity.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of manufacturing a board in accordance with claim 1, wherein the first and second sheets of material comprise at least one of polycarbonate, ABS and TPO.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing an apparatus, the method comprising:

means for forming at least two sheets of material to the interior of a first mold cavity

to form a shell;

means for filling the shell with an expandable material in a second mold cavity; and

means for preventing the shell from substantially deforming during filling with the expandable material.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of manufacturing an apparatus in accordance with claim 17, wherein the apparatus comprises a floatable board.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A board comprising:

a polymer shell having first and second sheets of material, the first and second sheets of material each having a perimeter, the perimeters of the first and second sheets of material being bonded together to form periphery edges of the board; and

a core of a material different than the material of the first and second sheets, the core substantially filling the interior of the shell between the periphery edges and having residual compressive stresses providing structural rigidity to the shell.

Claim 20 (Original): A board in accordance with claim 18, wherein the material of the core comprises at least one of polyurethane and polystyrene and the material of the polymer shell comprises at least one of polycarbonate, ABS and TPO.

Claim 21 (Original): A board in accordance with claim 19, wherein graphics are disposed on the interior of the shell between the shell and the core.

Claim 22 (New): A method of manufacturing a board, the method comprising:
providing upper and lower sheets of a generally rigid polymer material;
inserting the upper and lower sheets of material into an interior of a mold cavity;
forming the upper and lower sheets of material to the interior of the mold cavity to form a shell;

filling the shell with a expandable material to form a generally rigid inner core; and

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preventing the shell from substantially deforming during filling with the expandable material.